

**CITY OF MERRILL  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING    CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS    4:15 PM**

**I. Call to Order Roll Call:**

Present: Krueger, Malm, Gulke, Osness, D8 Alderperson Rutkowski

Present Not Voting: Parks Director Dan Wendorf

Excused: Trisha Kubichek, Kyle Hahn

Absent:

Chairperson Krueger called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

**II. Consider approving minutes from the previous meeting**

1. **February 2026 Meeting Minutes** - ( Osness/ Gulke) motion/second to approve. The motion Passed.

**III. Approval of Claims**

1. **February 2026 Claims** - (D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/ Gulke) motion/second to approve. The motion Passed.

**IV. General Agenda Items for Consideration**

**1. Consider potential adjustments to Smith Center Ice Rental Rates**

- Krueger introduced the agenda item and turned it over to Wendorf. Wendorf began the discussion by stating that the Smith Center ice rates have only been increased a few times over the past 20+ years and their current rates of \$85 per hour for user groups and \$125 for non-user groups is very low. Wendorf pointed to the chart that was provided to the Commission showing ice rates for 11 ice rinks in our area. The chart shows that we charge at least \$50 per hour less to our user groups than the surrounding rinks and \$20-\$30 per hour less for non-user groups. Wendorf stated that the cost for utilities, goods, staffing, and supplies increases every year, and we need to start looking at increasing rates to better help offset our costs. Wendorf also stated that he is bringing this to the Commission now because, in our agreement with Youth Hockey, it states that any potential ice rate adjustments must be brought to them before the end of April to allow for them to plan accordingly for the following season. Wendorf recommended increasing both rates (user and non-user groups) by \$10 per hour for next season and potentially increasing by another \$10 per hour for each in the following season(s) until we get closer to the surrounding rinks. This would put our rates at \$95 per hour for user groups and \$135 per hour for non-users. Krueger asked if it would be better to increase the non-user groups a little more right away and Wendorf said that they could definitely do that if they wished. Wendorf did say that he would have this discussion with Youth Hockey and Ice Reflections to make sure they understand what we are doing and why.

Rutkowski motioned to increase each by \$10 per hour, seconded by Gulke.

There was discussion about possibly moving non-user group rates up by \$15 per hour, and the second was friendly to that as well as revisiting this topic at

this time next year to review the rates again. Smith Center Ice Rates would be \$95 per hour for user groups and \$140 per hour for non-user groups. (D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/ Gulke) motion/second to approve. The motion Passed.

2. **Consider proposals for aquatic center pumps** - Wendorf informed the Commission that this was a capital project for this year and that he put our requests for proposals in the local paper, city website, and reached out to a few vendors to inform them of the requests. He said they received two proposals, one from Badger Swimpools (Prairie Du Sac, WI) and Wastewater Solutions (Stuart, FL). Wendorf said that Wastewater Solutions bid a different brand of pumps than was specified, but it appears they will fit what we are looking for for the most part. Badger Swimpools met specifications and matched the exact pumps we were looking for and Badger was one of the main builders of our pool and still currently works on our pool and has great knowledge of our pool, and we have a good/long relationship with them. Wendorf recommends the bid from Badger Swimpools in the amount of \$29,426.90. Malm asked Wendorf if this was an approved capital project and how much we were allocated in the budgetary process. Wendorf stated it was an approved project, and we were allotted \$30,000, so it fits within what we were given.

(D8 Alderperson Rutkowski/ Malm) motion/second to approve the bid from Badger Swimpools for \$29,426.90. The motion Passed.

## **V. Monthly Reports**

1. **March 2026 Director's Report** - Wendorf summarized his report and informed the Commission on a few upcoming items.

## **VI. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

1. **The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, April 1st, 2026 at 4:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Merrill City Hall -**

## **VII. Public Comment**

- ## **VIII. Adjournment** ( Osness/ Gulke) motion/second to adjourn at 4:50 p.m. The motion Passed.